

STATE OF MARYLAND

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Shari T. Wilson, Secretary

BILL NO: SB 384

COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: Support with Amendment

TITLE: Program Open Space – Impervious Surface Projects - Prohibition

BILL ANALYSIS: SB 384 would limit the availability of Program Open Space funding to local governments for the development of impervious surfaces, which would include the majority of local public recreation facility development projects, other than:

- (I) A fence or wall that is less than 1 foot in width that has not been constructed with a footer;
- (II) A wood mulch pathway, a bike pathway, or a walking pathway; or
- (III) A deck with gaps to allow water to pass freely.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: Support with Amendment

The Department of the Environment supports SB 384 with an amendment that would adhere to environmental site design elements rather than an outright prohibition on the use of POS money for impervious surface projects. This amendment would subject the development of impervious surface projects to environmental site design elements pursuant to MDE's stormwater management regulations. It is also consistent with the proposed State Board of Public Works policy regarding Environmental Site Design (ESD) consistent with the Stormwater Management Act of 2007 for State funded projects for POS and school construction.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
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